Study of structural remains discovered at Dwarka

2795. SHRI RAMSINGBHAI PATALIYABHAI RATHVAKOLI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 647 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 12th November, 1987 and state:

(a) whether structural remains and sea floor, discovered recently at Dwarka, have been entrusted for study to some experts;

(b) if so, what are the details of the study;

(c) what steps have been taken to preserve the articles found therein; and

(d) whether any survey work by some institutions and organisations is going on; if so, with what results?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Thermo luminescence studies have been carried but on the structural remains at Physical Research Laboratory, Ahmedabad; the dating has been found to be about 3500 years ago from now

(c) The antiquities will be handed over to the Gujrat Government when the proposed marine archaeology museum is built by them at Dwarka.

(d) Systematic coastal survey is to be carried out and shipwrecks as identified are to be explored. The project is to continue under the grant-in-aid from Department of Science and Technology, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (National Institute of Oceanography) providing logistic suport to it. Current phase of the project has been agreed upto March, 1989.

Increase in Defence Expenditure

2796. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the defence expenditure is likely to increase in view of the situation in Sri Lanka where the Indian Army is engaged; if so, what would be the expenditure on army operations and other outlays in Sri Lanka; and

(b) whether the allotment to defence stipulated in the budget of 1987-88, would be enough in view of unforeseen events taking place; if not, what would be the increase?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir. The expenditure consists of large number of items and correct and final figures are nat readily available.

(b) Correct estimate is not possible at this stage

Cut in Defence Budget

2797. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to put the cut in the current defence budget in view of expenditure on drought relief works; if so, what are the details thereof;

(b) whether Sir Lankan IPKF operation cost is going to be borne by the Sri Lanka Government and what is the IPKF expenses to this day; and

(c) whether the current IPKF expenses; if borne by Sri Lanka Government are directly incurred by the Sri Lankan Government or by the Government of India are spending money for them on loan account?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN